



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ROME, February 26, 1935.

35048

No. 981.

Subject: Regulation of Trade and Industry in Eritrea
and Somalia.

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DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Embassy's despatch No. 1726
of December 15th, 1932, and subsequent reports on the
government control of industry in Italy, I have the
honor to submit herewith a translation of Royal Decree
No. 2313 of December 20th, 1934, which provides for
government control of industrial and commercial
activities in the Italian colonies of Eritrea and
Somalia.

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Respectfully yours,

Breckinridge Long.

Enclosure Translation.

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ROYAL DECREE 2313 of December 20th, 1934;

Regulation of Trade and Industry in Eritrea
and Italian Somalia.

Article 1.

The establishment of industries, the building and amplification of industrial plants, the opening of business houses, and in general the exercise of all industrial and commercial activity in Eritrea and Italian Somalia shall take place only with the authorization of the Government, issued in accordance with the provisions of the following articles.

The above obligation shall not apply to itinerant vendors, vendors of native drinks, and native restaurants comprised in Category B of income tax assessee in Eritrea and Italian Somalia as determined by the Governor.

The regulations contained in the ordinances of both colonies referring to the issue of concessions shall in all cases be duly respected.

Article 2.

The authorizations referred to in the preceding article shall be granted, upon the request of the persons concerned:

- a) under decree of the Governor, after consultation with the Council of Economy for Eritrea or the Economic Committee for Italian Somalia, in the case of the exercise of commercial activities and the establishment of new industries of artisan type or connected with the mining industry;
- b) under decree of the Minister for Colonies, after consultation with the Superior Colonial Council, in the case of all other industrial activities envisaged in Article 1 of the present decree.

The authorizations referred to in the present article may also prescribe the period of time within which operations shall begin if the authorization is to be valid.

Authorizations shall be declared expired or revoked in the same manner as prescribed by the present article for the issue thereof.

Article 3.

For the establishment of industries and the building and amplification of industrial plants, the Minister for Colonies may through decree, in accord with the Minister for Finance and after consultation with the Superior Colonial Council, grant exclusive rights over a maximum period of fifteen years. In such cases the decree shall contain a statement of motives and shall explicitly specify the conditions demanded of the concessionaire, with a clause providing for the annulment of the concession in the event of failure to observe the said conditions.

The regulations in effect regarding industrial concessions shall be duly respected.

Article 4.

Decrees granting authorizations and decrees declaring the invalidity and annulment thereof shall be published in the Official Bulletin of the Colony.

The party concerned may appeal against the provisions issued by the Governor under Article 2 to the Ministry of Colonies, which shall give final decision after consultation with the Superior Colonial Council. The appeal shall not suspend the operation of the provisions; the Minister for Colonies may, however, order the suspension of the provision appealed when special and urgent circumstances so demand.

Article 5.

All provisions conflicting with the present decree are hereby repealed.

Central File: Decimal File 865A.60, Internal Affairs Of States, Eritrea, Industrial Matters., February 26, 1935. 26 Feb. 1935. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, <link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109731253%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC>. Accessed 18 June 2025.